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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| GAY, SONIA L | |

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 10/821,768 | CHEN, MENG-KAI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | SONIA GAY | 2614 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 April 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *09 April 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to Application No. 10/821768 submitted on 04/09/2006 in which claims 1 – 30 are presented for examination.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-5, 16 – 17 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. (US 5,838,665) in view of Priban ( US 6,614,906), and further in view of Yekutiely ( US 2006/0034435).

For claims 1, 16, and 25, Kahn discloses a multiple communication system and method comprising:

a computer, communicating with at least one remote Internet client through a communication network, receiving a first voice signal from the remote Internet client wherein the communication network composed of at least one of the Internet, a local area network, and a leased line (column 3 lines 8 - 17)

a telephone, communicating with a remote telephone through a telephone network, receiving a second voice signal from a remote telephone (column 3 lines 20 – 22);

a telephone receiver, receiving a third voice signal from the telephone receiver user (column 3 lines 46 – 48);

a shared device connecting the computer , the telephone, and the telephone receiver, comprising a voice divider (*connections 64,65, 68,*: column 4 lines 41 - 50) and a mixer (column 3 lines 67 - column 4 line 4) wherein the mixer receives the voice divided signals, mixes the other first and a third voice divided signal then sends the mixed signal to the telephone (column 3 lines 67 – column 4 lines 4, 21 – 24, 41 – 44).

Yet, Kahn et al. fails to teach

a voice divider wherein the voice divider receives the first voice signal from the computer, the second voice signal from the telephone, and the third voice signal from the third voice signal from the telephone receiver, and divides the first voice signal into two first voice divided signals, the second voice signal into two second voice divided signals, and the third voice signal into two third voice divided signals; and,

a mixer wherein the mixer receives the voice divided signal, mixes first and second voice divided signals then sends the mixed signal to the telephone receiver and mixes the second and the other third divided voice signal then sends the mixed signal to the computer.

However, Priban discloses a device similar to the device above in Kahn wherein a voice divider ( *transformers and bypass circuit* : column 1 lines 61 - column 2 line 5) divides a first voice signal from the computer into two first voice divided signals (column 2 lines 52 – 57), a second voice signal from the telephone into two voice divided signals (column 2 lines 41 – 48),

and a third voice signal from the telephone receiver into two third voice divided signals (column 1 line 66 – column 2 line 5; column 2 lines 55 - 57) for the purpose of combining audio signals from the telephone with audio signals from the computer (Abstract).

Moreover, Yekutiely discloses a communication device coupled to the audio input/output ports of a computer (Abstract) comprising an audio mixer that is coupled to a phone telephone line, the speaker, earpiece, and microphone of a telephone handset, and the audio input/out ports of the computer for purpose of receiving , processing, and sending analog signals (Abstract; [0024] [0025]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Kahn et al. with the teachings of Priban and Yekutiely to :

use a single voice divider to receive the voice signals from the computer, telephone, and telephone receiver for the purpose of dividing each of the signals into two divided signals for the purpose of combining audio signals from the telephone with audio signals from the computer; and,

use a single audio mixer to receive, process, and send the various voice divided signals to the telephone receiver, telephone, or computer.

For claims 2 - 5, 17, and 26, the teachings of Kahn et al., Priban, and Yekutiely further disclose

a first amplifier, disposed between the computer and the voice divider for amplifying the first voice signal before sending it to the voice divider ( Priban, *buffer* : column 2 lines 6 – 9).

a second amplifier, disposed between the telephone and the voice divider for amplifying the second voice signal before sending it to the voice divider ( Kahn et al., *voice input amplifier* : column 4 lines 11 - 12).

an impedance match, disposed between the first amplifier and the computer for adjusting the volume and voice –frequency of the voice signal from the computer according to a differential impedance between the computer and the telephone ( Priban : column 2 lines 10 – 15).

2. Claims 6- 7, 10, 19, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. ( US 5,838,665) in view of Eting et al. ( US 5,651,056), and further in view of Murata (US 2002/0114430).

For claims 6, 19 , and 27, Kahn et al. discloses a multiple communication system and method comprising:

a computer, communicating with at least one remote Internet client through a communication network, receiving a first a first voice signal from the remote Internet client wherein the communication network composed of at least one of the Internet, a local area network, and a leased line ( column 3 lines 8 - 17)

a telephone, communicating with a remote telephone through a telephone network, receiving a second voice signal from a remote telephone ( column 3 lines 20 – 22);

a telephone receiver, receiving a third voice signal from the telephone receiver user (column 3 lines 46 – 48);

a shared device connecting the computer , the telephone, and the telephone receiver, comprising three voice dividers (*connections 64,65, 68,*: column 4 lines 41 - 50) and a mixer (column 3 lines 67 - column 4 line 4) wherein the a first voice divider receives the first voice signal from the computer and divides it into two voice divided signals (*connections 64, 65, 68* : column 4 lines 41 – 50), a second voice divider receives a second voice signal from the telephone then divided it into two second voice divided signals (*connection 57, 58* : column 4 lines 10 – 18) , a third voice divider receives a third voice signal from the telephone receiver then divides it into two third voice divided signals (*connection 53, 58* : column 4 lines 21 - 24), and

a mixer wherein a second mixer receives and mixes the other first and third voice divided signal then sends the mixed signal to the telephone (column 3 lines 67 – column 4 line 4, 21 - 24, 41 - 44),

Yet, Kahn et al. fails to teach a first mixer that receives and mixes first and a second voice divided signals then sends the mixed signal to the telephone receiver and a third mixer that receives and mixes the second and the other third divided voice signal then sends the mixed signal to the computer.

However, Kahn et al. discloses a first component that receives ( *voice input amplifier* : column 3 lines 67 – column 4 line 4) a first and a second voice divided signal for the purpose of sending the signals to the telephone receiver ( column 4 lines 10 – 12, 41 – 52) and a third component ( *sound card input line* : column 4 line 24) that receives the second and the other third voice divided signal for the purpose of sending the signal to the computer.

Moreover, Eting et al. discloses a component similar to the first component disclosed above in Kahn et al. comprising a mixer for the purpose of mixing and amplifying signals sent to the speaker of a telephone receiver ( column 6 lines 54 – 59).

Additionally, Murata discloses a device with similar function as the shared device disclosed above in Kahn et al. ( Murata, *Abstract)* comprising a mixer located between a receiver and a voice signal input of a personal computer for the purpose of combining signals to form one to input to the personal computer ( [0046] [0047] [0048]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Kahn et al. with the teachings of Eting et al. and Murata to include a first and third mixer for the purpose of mixing voice divided signals and sending them to either the telephone receiver or the computer.

For claims 7 and 10, the teachings of Kahn et al., Eting et al., and Murata further discloses

a first amplifier, disposed between the computer and the first voice divider for amplifying the first voice signal before sending it to the voice divider (Murata : [0045] [0046]).

an amplifier, disposed between the telephone and the voice divider for amplifying the second voice signal before sending it to the voice divider (Kahn et al., *voice input amplifier* : column 4 lines 11 - 12).

3. Claims 8 - 9, 20 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. ( US 5,838,665) in view of Eting et al. ( US 5,651,056), and Murata (US 2002/0114430), and further in view of Priban (US 6,614,906).

For claims 8-9, 20, and 28, the teachings of Kahn et al., Eting et al., and Murata fail to teach an impedance match, disposed between the first amplifier and the computer for adjusting the volume and voice –frequency of the voice signal from the computer according to a differential impedance between the computer and the telephone ( Priban : column 2 lines 10 – 15).

However, Priban discloses an impedance match, disposed between the first amplifier and the computer for the purpose of adjusting the volume and voice –frequency of the voice signal from the computer according to a differential impedance between the computer and the telephone (column 2 lines 10 – 15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Kahn et al., Eting et al., and Murata with the teachings of Priban to dispose an impedance match between the first amplifier and the computer for the purpose of adjusting the volume and voice –frequency of the voice signal from the computer according to a differential impedance between the computer and the telephone.

4. Claims 11- 15, 22-23, and 29 – 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. (US 5,838,665) in view of Priban ( US 6,614,906), and further in view of Lane (US 6,757, 379).

For claims 11 - 15, and 29- 30, the teachings of Kahn et al. and Priban fail to teach receiving a third voice signal from an internal voice exchange.

However, Lane discloses a device with a similar function as the shared device disclosed above in the teachings of Kahn et al. and Priban wherein a voice signal is received from an internal voice exchange for the purpose of attaching a personal computer to a telephone system where the telephone system has a proprietary interface line interface to a private automatic branch exchange (PABX) ( column 2 lines 9 - 12, 24 - 30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Kahn et al. and Priban with the teachings of Lane to connect the shared device disclosed above in Kahn et al. to an internal voice exchange for the purpose of attaching a personal computer to any telephone system, i.e. PSTN or a PABX.

5. Claims 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. (US 5,838,665) in view of Priban ( US 6,614,906), and further in view of Yekutiely ( US 2006/0034435), and further in view of Cupal et al. (US 2005/0151833).

For claim 18, the teachings of Kahn et al., Priban, and Yekutiely fail to teach a video camera installed in the computer for recording and sending the video of the telephone receiver user to the remote Internet client.

However, Cupal et al. discloses a device comprising a telephone handset interface, a video input /output interfaces, and a network interface ( [0017] [0020] [0021] )for the purpose of conducting a videoconference wherein the handset of an independently-operable voice –only

telephone is configured with a microphone and speaker for receiving and generating audio to the device. ( Abstract; [0017][0016])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Kahn et al. so the shared device disclosed above in Kahn et al. would include video input/output interfaces for the purpose of conducting a videoconference using an independently operable voice-only telephone.

6. Claims 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. ( US 5,838,665) in view of Eting et al. ( US 5,651,056), and further in view of Murata (US 2002/0114430), and further in view of Cupal et al. (US 2005/0151833).

For claim 21, the teachings of Kahn et al., Eting et al. and Murata fail to teach a video camera installed in the computer for recording and sending the video of the telephone receiver user to the remote Internet client.

However, Cupal et al. discloses a device comprising a telephone handset interface, a video input /output interfaces, and a network interface ( [0017] [0020] [0021]) for the purpose of conducting a videoconference wherein the handset of an independently-operable voice –only telephone is configured with a microphone and speaker for receiving and generating audio to the device. ( Abstract; [0017][0016])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Kahn et al. so the shared device disclosed above in Kahn et al. would include video input/output interfaces for the purpose of conducting a videoconference using an independently operable voice-only telephone.

7. Claims 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. (US 5,838,665) in view of Priban ( US 6,614,906), and further in view of Lane (US 6,757, 379), and further in view of Cupal et al. (US 2005/0151833).

For claim 24, the teachings of Kahn et al., Priban and Lane fail to teach a video camera installed in the computer for recording and sending the video of the telephone receiver user to the remote Internet client.

However, Cupal et al. discloses a device comprising a telephone handset interface, a video input /output interfaces, and a network interface ( [0017] [0020] [0021]) for the purpose of conducting a videoconference wherein the handset of an independently-operable voice –only telephone is configured with a microphone and speaker for receiving and generating audio to the device. ( Abstract; [0017][0016])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Kahn et al. so the shared device disclosed above in Kahn et al. would include video input/output interfaces for the purpose of conducting a videoconference using an independently operable voice-only telephone.

## *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SONIA GAY whose telephone number is (571)270-1951. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sonia Gay/
Examiner, Art Unit 2614

September 10, 2008

/Ahmad F. Matar/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614